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REPORT

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES • SUMMER 1992

Dog Dealer's Drug-License Application Withdrawn

Kiser Lake Kennels has been no stranger to HSUS members in the region, and the company is once again making news. A tidbit of information gleaned by HSUS staff has led to the discovery that this U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)-licensed dog dealer that buys dogs from Ohio dog pounds and other sources for resale to research labs lacked proper licensing by the Ohio Board of Pharmacy (OBP) for drugs it utilized. When Kiser Lake's owner applied for the proper licensing, the OBP executive director recommended denial of the application based on its investigation. The owner later withdrew his application prior to the conclusion of a hearing

provided at his own request.

It all began in September, when GLRO Program Coordinator Robin Weirauch visited Perry County, Ohio, to assist citizens who wished to improve their local dog pound. They call themselves the "Pound Upgrading Project," or PUP. (Perry County has no humane society.) Weirauch spoke at an evening meeting of PUP and offered suggestions for changes that would be of the greatest benefit to animals.

The next day Weirauch stopped by the pound and spoke with the dog warden. She was told that a small amount of sodium pentobarbital had been dispensed by a Kiser Lake employee to an individual not

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authorized to possess such drugs.

Knowing that sodium pentobarbital is a controlled substance regulated by state and federal law, Weirauch was obligated to report this information to the OBP, which promptly investigated. What was then believed to be sodium pentobarbital was discovered in a soda pop bottle, and more drugs were seized by the OBP investigator from Kiser Lake Kennels' property because the kennel lacked proper licensing.

Kiser Lake needed a drug license to continue doing business as usual but would have had to provide satisfactory proof to the OBP that Ohio's dangerous-drug laws would be upheld. The OBP held a hearing on this matter in January 1992. Although strongly objected to by the dealer's attorney, Weirauch, who had been subpoenaed, testified regarding the alleged sodium pentobarbital. She supplied evidence of the suspension of the dealer's USDA license in 1991 due to violations of the federal Animal Welfare Act and Kiser Lake Kennels' arrangement with several Ohio dog pounds to kill surplus dogs in exchange for taking certain live ones for resale. She also explained why The HSUS believes that such an arrangement is contrary to Ohio law, presenting court documents and opinions from the Ohio attorney general as

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An unwanted dog is one of hundreds confined in Ohio pounds; certain county pounds have canceled their contracts for euthanasia services with Kiser Lake Kennels in the wake of revelations that the kennel lacked proper drug licensing.

Reward, Reward, Reward

The HSUS offers the following rewards of

- up to \$2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any wholesale dealer in dogs and cats who knowingly buys or otherwise procures any stolen animal;
- up to \$2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who organizes dogfights, fights dogs, promotes dogfighting, or officiates at dogfights;
- up to \$2,500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who organizes cockfights, fights cocks, promotes cockfighting, or officiates at cockfights;
- up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of any person who willfully poisons or attempts to poison a dog or cat.

If you have any information regarding any such acts, please feel free to call the GLRO in complete confidence at (419) 352-5141 between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. ■

Dog Dealer

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substantiation.

Before any further testimony was presented, Kiser Lake Kennels announced that it would withdraw its application for licensing. Kiser Lake and its employees will not be able to acquire, store, or use euthanasia drugs and other controlled substances unless a veterinarian personally administers them.

Later the GLRO learned that several of the counties utilizing this dog dealer's services (including Perry County) have canceled their contracts. The substance in the pop bottle turned out to be not sodium pentobarbital but succinylcholine, which also requires licensing through the OBP. It is hoped that Kiser Lake's drug-licensing problems with the OBP will effectively illustrate why the Ohio Revised Code prohibits dog pounds from contracting with outside for-profit businesses for euthanasia and sheltering services and will persuade other counties to avoid unlawful money-saving arrangements.

The GLRO will continue to monitor this situation and welcomes information from citizens about animal-care problems. ■

Disposition of Stray Dogs Investigated in Noble County

Noble County, Ohio, does not have a dog pound, as is prescribed by state law, and has been housing stray dogs at a business enterprise that sells animals for research. An audit report released by the auditor of the state may change that situation, however.

Information received by the GLRO alleged that the county was utilizing a for-profit business called Dogtown USA as its dog pound and that dogs were being transferred to another for-profit business, an operation licensed by the USDA to sell dogs to research labs. Ohio counties must provide and operate their own pounds or contract with a duly organized humane society for euthanasia and sheltering services.

When the USDA began investigating these allegations, forwarded to them by the GLRO, Dogtown USA claimed to be exempt from USDA licensing because it is a county dog pound, not a for-profit dog dealer. But USDA inspectors found extremely inadequate the records detailing where the dogs came from or their final disposition, which are required by Ohio law. The GLRO and the USDA then decided to request a closer look from the state audi-

tor's office regarding the portions of Ohio dog laws that the state agency oversees.

As a result of this joint request, the state auditor reported that "audit procedures regarding the administration of dog laws were expanded." In addition to several record-keeping deficiencies, the audit report states that the county commissioners are

without authority to enter into such a contract [with a for-profit corporation] and should immediately void this contract and consult with the county prosecutor to assure compliance with the requirements of this section [of Ohio law].

This very detailed audit report (which is available to the public) has been turned over to the Ohio attorney general's office for possible legal action.

A number of people have expressed interest in improving animal protection in Noble County, and the GLRO hopes that a humane society will soon be formed for that purpose.

The expanded audit procedures will be applied to other counties about whose practices the GLRO had expressed concern. ■



Ohio law is supposed to protect "pound puppies" such as these mixed breeds from profit-seeking businesses that sell dogs to research institutions. The GLRO strives continually to prevent dealers from profiting from the suffering of unwanted and stray animals, and recent developments have raised hopes for greater protection for them.



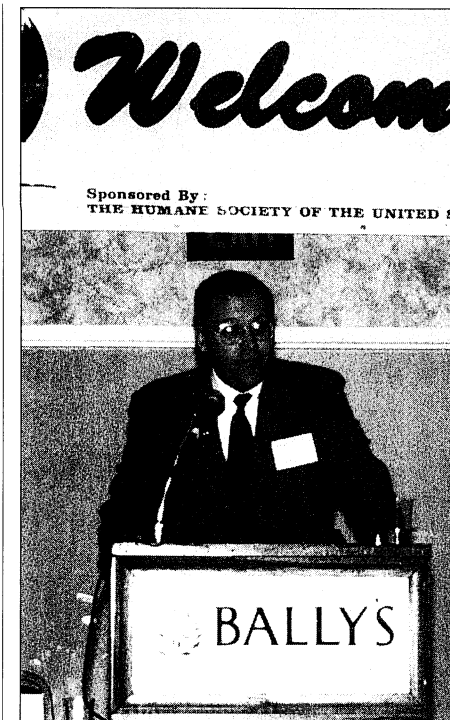
The Animal Care Expo '92 proved to be educational and entertaining. GLRO Director Sandy Rowland (center) enjoyed the company of Pat Cannon and Mary Pat Boatfield, both of whom hail from the Great Lakes region. An Expo '93 is planned for next spring.

Animal Care Expo in Las Vegas Surpasses All Expectations

Las Vegas, Nevada, hosted animal protectionists from all over the country—many from the Great Lakes region—in early February. The HSUS's Animal Care Expo '92 has been hailed as a huge success. More than 1,200 people attended this inaugural presentation of hundreds of products and services specifically geared toward animal-care, -protection, and -control agencies. Participants saw everything from newly tested large-animal rescue harnesses to ant-proof feeding dishes, from custom-designed banners to feline ear tags. More than fifty workshops were offered as well; GLRO Director Sandy Rowland presented a workshop on disaster planning, and GLRO Program Coordinator Robin Weirauch held a discussion on animal-adoption procedures.

Great Lakes staffers were pleased and proud to see many familiar faces from the region taking advantage of a prime opportunity to view the brightest and best of what's available for animals in the 1990s.

If you didn't make it to Expo '92, stay tuned for further details. Plans are already under way for Expo '93! ■



HSUS President Paul G. Irwin welcomes more than a thousand people to Expo '92.

DIRECTOR'S COMMENT



Sandy Rowland

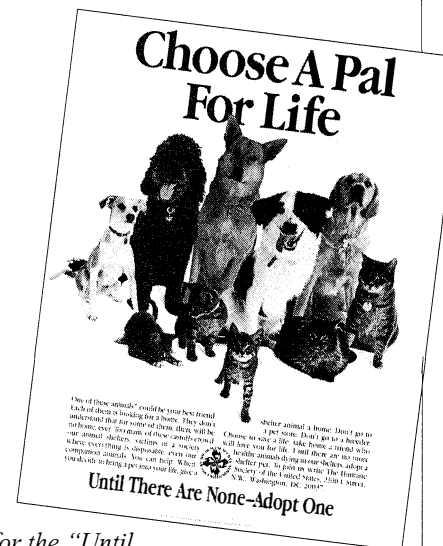
by Sandy Rowland

I have a new family member and I'm bursting at the seams with pride over her. She's a little, diluted calico cat—the sweetest, smartest, most gorgeous cat I've ever known.

We named her Phyllis Katlyn after retired HSUS Vice President, Companion Animals, Phyllis Wright.

Katie has the intelligence of a performing tiger. She learned that when we say, "Katie, scratching post" she should run to her post and scratch away. When she wants to be held and cuddled, she approaches us, emits a squeak, then stands on her hind feet so that we will pick her up.

She is such a delight that when I travel home from the office or



Ad for the "Until There Are None, Adopt One" campaign promotes shelter adoptions.

from a field trip, I think of her and my heart flutters a bit.

I am using this column to ramble on about my wonderful pet because she was adopted from an animal shelter. I hope learning what a charming cat Katie is will remind each of you to think first about adopting from your animal shelter when you think of getting another pet.

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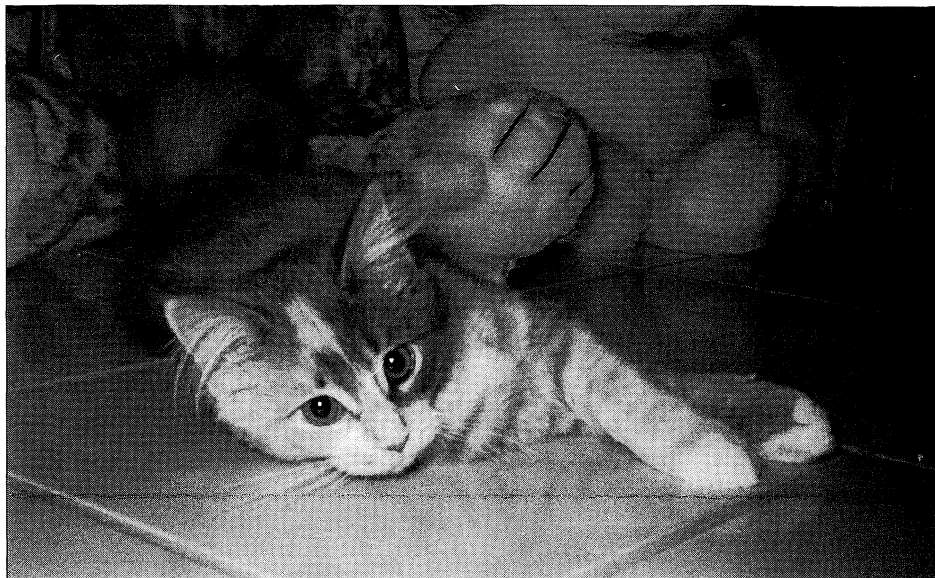
Director's Comment

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The HSUS has launched its "Until There Are None, Adopt One" campaign. There are thousands of cats like Katie, as well as thousands of great dogs, in shelters near you. The majority face euthanasia if not adopted. We strive for the day when there are none in shelters, but until that day we are encouraging you to adopt one.

We have designed a brochure, "Choose a Pal for Life," for distribution in the community and at shelters. The campaign is helping shelters emphasize advertising, increase their name recognition, and bring more people through their doors while maintaining high adoption standards.

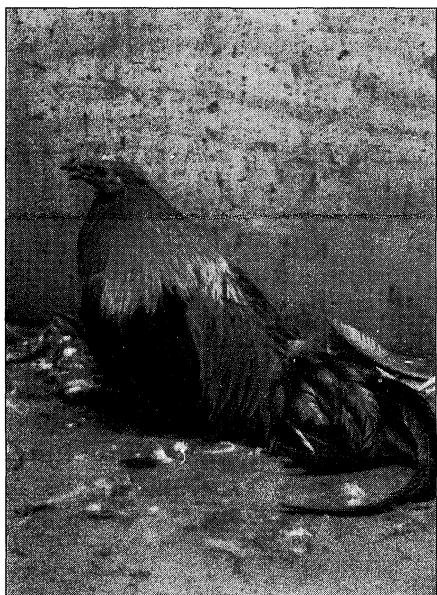
So when you are looking for your next pet, please go to your shelter. There is a Katie there waiting for you.



Phyllis Katlyn Rowland was adopted from the Humane Society of Huron Valley, Ann Arbor, Michigan. Thousands of cats and dogs await adoption in shelters throughout the region.

Latest Chapter of Cockfight Story Is a Disappointing One

Our last *Regional Report* described two major cockfight raids that took place last May. The GLRO assisted the Ohio Department of Agriculture in both raids,



A cock awaits rescue during a Vinton County, Ohio, raid in 1991.

one of which involved the "Super Bowl" of cockfighting. The raids netted nearly 400 people and 700 game fowl. All cockfighting charges filed were misdemeanors.

Recent events have proven that Ohio's present cockfighting law is too weak. In Scioto County charges were dropped when it was learned the sheriff had failed to notarize the citations. The prosecutor refused to refile the charges, stating he had more important cases to consider. In the same county, all of the birds were returned to their owners because the judge could not be convinced the birds were to be used for fighting. Photographs of dead birds apparently didn't persuade him otherwise.

In Vinton County hundreds of birds were returned to owners or auctioned. These game fowl went to some of the people who had been charged with cockfighting.

This action shows the need for a felony cockfighting bill. State Rep. Dean Conley has introduced one in H.B. 632. We are calling upon Ohioans to ask their state lawmakers to support this bill.

Reflect for a moment . . .

HOW CAN I HELP ANIMALS EVEN WHEN I NO LONGER SHARE THEIR WORLD?

By your bequest for animal protection to The Humane Society of the United States, your will can provide for animals after you're gone. Naming The HSUS demonstrates your lasting commitment to animal welfare and strengthens the society for this task. We will be happy to send information about our animal programs and material that will assist in planning a will.

Please send will information to:

Name

Address

City

State

Zip code

Mail in confidence to Murdaugh S. Madden, Vice President/Senior Counsel, The Humane Society of the United States, 2100 L St., NW, Washington, DC 20037.